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Message Text

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47
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02

ORM-02 AID-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 DODE-00

/065 W
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R 310605Z AUG 76
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4106
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0667

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, ET
SUBJECT: LALMBA HOSPITAL AND ERITREAN RELIEF ASSOCIATION

REF: STATE 212350

1. CONGEN HAS ESTABLISHED FROM TWO NON-EPMG SOURCES THAT THE ERITREAN RELIEF ASSOCIATION IS AFFILIATED WITH THE INSURGENT ELF. IT IS REPORTED TO HAVE AN OFFICE IN NEW YORK WHICH ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR ERITREAN REFUGEES AND VICTIMS OF THE INSURGENCY, AND UNDOUBTEDLY SEEKS TO INFLUENCE U.N. MEMBERS ON QUESTIONS CONCERNING ERITREA. PREVIOUSLY, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN ERITREA TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR BOTH THE DROUGHT AND THE INSURGENCY. AMONG THESE ORGANIZATIONS WAS THE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION FOR ERITREA, HENCE THE POSSIBLE CONFUSION. ALL INDIGENOUS RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS, HOWEVER, WERE MERGED IN JANUARY, 1975, UNDER THE ETHIOPIAN RELIEF AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION.

2. THERE HAS BEEN NO CIVILIAN SUPPLY CONVOY FROM ASMARA TO KEREN SINCE MAY, 1976. THIS IS DUE TO THE PRECARIOUS SECURITY SITUATION ALONG THAT ROUTE. THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE (CRS), WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING A PRE-SCHOOL CHILD FEEDING PROGRAM IN KEREN, HAS RECENTLY INFORMED THE CONGEN THAT ITS OPERATION THERE HAS GROUND TO A HALT AS A RESULT OF ITS INABILITY TO FORWARD
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SUPPLIES TO KEREN. CRS HAS ALWAYS RECEIVED THE UTMOST COOPERATION

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FROM THE EPMG AUTHORITIES, BUT AS THERE HAVE BEEN NO CONVOYS
IT HAS BEEN STALEMATED IN EFFORTS TO RE-SUPPLY ITS OPERATION.

3. RECOMMENDATION: WE WOULD STRONGLY ADVISE THE LALMBA ASSOCIATION
TO DESIST FROM FURTHER CONTACTS WITH THE ERITREAN RELIEF
ASSOCIATION. IF LALMBA WISHES TO COORDINATE ITS EFFORTS WITH THE
ETHIOPIAN RELIEF AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION, THE CONGEN IS
PREPARED TO OFFER ALL REASONABLE ASSISTANCE IN HAVING ITS RELIEF
SUPPLIES DISPATCHED ON A CIVILIAN CONVOY TO KEREN, WHENEVER THAT
TAKES PLACE.
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